Mobilisation of resources for river linking projects

96. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to rope in Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) including corporates controlled by PIOs in massive projects like linking of the rivers and to mobilise PIO resources for river linking project; and

(b) if so, the PIOs and corporates controlled by PIOs who have evinced interest in the river links projects and the offers made by them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) A Task Force on Inter-Linking of Rivers under the Chairmanship of Shri Suresh P. Prabhu, Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha has been constituted on 13.12.2002. The terms of reference of the Task Force *inter-alia* include consideration of the various modalities for project funding. The Task Force has been given a time table for preparation of an Action Plan by 31st July, 2003 for giving alternative options for funding and execution of the project as also the suggested methods for cost recovery.

Release of water fromTungabhadra Dam

97. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Karnataka had not released Andhra Pradesh's share of 4 tmc. ft. of water from the Tungabhadra Dam;

(b) if so, whether the water was meant to meet the drinking water requirements of Kurnool city and Adoni and Yemmiganur Municipalities in Kurnool district;

(c) whether there is no response from the officials in Karnataka despite repeated pleas for the release of water; and

(d) if so, whether the Central Government have agreed to issue instructions to Karnataka to release water to Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (d) During the month of April, 2002 the demand of Andhra Pradesh for meeting drinking water needs of Kurnool Town and other villages could not be meet due to over drawal by Karnataka, which has resulted in insufficient storage in Tungabhadra reservoir. The matter was deliberated in an emergency meeting of Tungabhadra Board held on 6th April, 2002 and it was decided that Government of Karnataka would ensure replenishment of excess quantity of water drawn from Tungabhadra reservoir in order to meet the immediate drinking water requirement of Andhra Pradesh. Accordingly, Karnataka Government released water from the reservoirs upstream of the Tungabhadra Dam and there was improvement in the inflows into the Tungabhadra Reservoir. Thereafter on 29th April, 2002 water could be released from Tungabhadra Reservoir to Andhra Pradesh to meet the drinking water needs of Kurnool Town and other villages.

Projects on interlinking of rivers

† 98. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have taken a decision to construct 30 projects for interlinking rivers in the country with a view to provide water to dry areas from extra water flowing areas;

(b) if not, the number and other details thereof;

(c) the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred on the construction of each project; and

(d) the quantum of additional water likely to reach in dry areas under each scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Water Resources, then known as the Ministry of Irrigation^ formulated a National Perspective Plan for water resources development in 1980 which envisages inter linkages among Peninsular Rivers and Himalayan Rivers for transferring

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.